

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-14, 17-19, 21-27, 29-34, 37-39, 41-44, 46-51,53-62, 65, 67, 69, 71 and 73 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) .

Claims 8, 15, 16, 20, 28, 35, 36, 40, 45, 52, 63, 64, 66, 68, 70 and 72 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

In order expedite prosecution of the present application, 1, 3-7, 9-14, 17-19, 21-27, 29-34, 37-39, 41-44, 46-51,53-62, 65, 67, 69, 71 and 73 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. Further, allowed claims 8, 15, 20, 28, 35, 40, 45, 52, 63, 66, 68, 70 and 72 have been drafted into independent form by including the limitations of their respective base claims and any intermediate claims therein.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Kiyomi SAKAMOTO et al.

By:



David M. Ovedovitz
Registration No. 45,336
Attorney for Applicants

DMO/jmj
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
October 6, 2004